

SPECIAL REPORT

Foreign Media Reaction

Executive Registry
83-4332/ 27

September 6, 1983

PRESIDENT'S TV ADDRESS--WORLD REACTION TO DOWNING OF JET - V

Summary

The President's television speech to the nation last night made banner headlines throughout most of the world today.

Early assessment of it in Western Europe and the Far East cited Mr. Reagan for moderation although some felt, as did today's nationalistic Daily Mail, that "after all the tough talk he pulls his punches."

BBC today said that the President, "speaking eloquently and carrying a fairly small stick," gave a "vintage Reagan" performance.

London's sensationalist left-leaning Daily Mirror thought that "the tough talking President...went soft on the Russians" because U.S. defense officials admitted that RC-135 planes "sometimes flew behind civil airlines while monitoring Russian radar." This, the paper said, put the President in a "tricky position."

Generally, early comment seemed to approve of the tone of the speech although there was recognition that it would not be approved by everybody. Stockholm's liberal tabloid Expressen said it was "a disappointment to American hawks and came as a relief to the peace movement." But Tokyo's Yomiuri held that the President's remarks "were moderate."

Media observers everywhere were impressed by the President's use of the tape recording of the Soviet pilots as they attacked the airliner. In London, Independent Television News made extensive use of extracts from the President's remarks with the main focus on the tape.

At the same time, media worldwide continued to condemn the Soviet Union for its action, and this outpouring increasingly included expressions of impatience with the Soviet Union's failure to satisfactorily explain the attack. West Berlin's Volksblatt Berlin held that "time has run out for the USSR to give a credible explanation."

United States Information Agency



C315

WESTERN EUROPE

BRITAIN

Electronic media coverage of President Reagan's remarks last night on the South Korean jet incident judged they were "milder than expected."

Headlines in London today emphasized the playing of voice tapes of the Soviet pilots as they attacked the KAL plane and Moscow's reaction to the speech

"Anxious Russians Fear War"

London headlines today were "Canada Cuts Last Aeroflot Link to North America...Spy Plane Was Back at Base--U.S...Anxious Russians Fear War But Rally Round Flag" and "U.K. Rejects Moscow's Explanation" (Times), "Reagan Reveals 'Massacre' Tapes--'The Target Is Destroyed...Missile Talks 'Not Affected'" and "East-West Confrontation Looms" (Daily Telegraph).

"Soviet Sources Admit Shooting Down Jumbo"

Additional headlines in London were "Soviet Sources Admit Shooting Down Jumbo...Reagan Sends Tapes to U.N." and "Jet Disaster 'Unavoidably Linked' to Geneva Arms Talks" (Guardian), "U.S. Fanning Hysteria Over Airliner, Soviets Claim" and "Jet Disaster Could Hit Soviet Development Plan" (Financial Times), "Reagan Plays Atrocity Tapes on TV" (Daily Mail), "Reagan the Softie--After All the Tough Talk He Pulls His Punches Over Jet" (Daily Mirror), "Reagan Calls For Ban on Red Jets" (Sun) and "The Fatal Blunders--Now Both Sides Must Come Clean Over Jet Disaster" (Daily Express).

ITN Broadcast Featured Specific Measures

ITN's noon bulletin today led with the President's television addresss making extensive use of extracts and focusing on the tapes of the Soviet pilots making the attack.

The broadcast also featured the President's announcement of specific measures against the Soviet Union. The report said the Secretary of State is expected to take a firm line when he meets Gromyko in Madrid on Saturday.

The report concluded with an item on the resumption of the general arms talks saying they were resuming "in the shadow of the airline incident."

"Vintage Reagan"

BBC television at noon today led with Washington correspondent Martin Bell's report that the President, speaking "eloquently and carrying a fairly small stick," gave a "vintage Reagan" performance but that the reprisals were "a good deal milder" than expected.

"Dramatized With Recordings of Soviet Pilots"

The conservative Daily Telegraph today ran Washington correspondent Richard Beeston's report that "President Reagan last night delivered a denunciation of the Soviet Union's action in shooting down the Korean airliner which he dramatized with recordings of the conversations of Soviet pilots as they prepared to destroy the aircraft.

"In a television address in which he referred several times to what can only be called 'the Korean airline massacre,' Mr. Reagan announced a number of measures against the Soviet Union.

"Omnibus Claim for Compensation"

"Mr. Reagan said he would be presenting an omnibus claim for compensation for the families of more than 55 American nationals who were among the 269 people lost aboard the airliner.

"While playing the recording of the Russian pilots' voices as they tracked the Korean airliner, Mr. Reagan gave this paraphrase: 'In this tape he describes his search for what he calls the target. He reports he has it in sight. Indeed, he pulls up to within about a mile of the Korean plane, mentions its flashing strobe light and that its navigation lights are on.

"He then reports he is reducing speed to get behind the airliner, gives his distance from the plane at various points in this maneuver and finally announces what can only be called the Korean airline massacre.'"

"Reagan Tough-Talking...But Soft on Russians"

The left-oriented, Daily Mirror's front-page lead said today, "Tough-talking President Reagan went soft on the Russians last night over the Korean jumbo jet disaster.

"After threatening all kinds of retaliation, he settled for 'the cancellation of cultural and transport cooperation' with Russia and a demand for compensation for the relatives of people who died.

"His about-face was caused by the news that America had a spy plane in the area where a Russian fighter shot down the Korean 747, killing all 269 people aboard.

"Canada which lost ten people in the crash banned all landings by Aeroflot...but Reagan could not even do that. No Aeroflot airliners fly to the United States.

"Russians Have Not Admitted Shooting Down Boeing"

"The Russians have not admitted shooting down the Boeing 747 jumbo although they have said their fighters could have mistaken it for an American spy plane. The spy plane concerned is a military version of the Boeing 707--which the Americans say could not be mistaken for the jumbo.

"But American defense officials admitted that the spy planes, known as RC-135s, sometimes flew behind civil airlines while monitoring Russian radar. President Reagan was therefore in a tricky position in his bid to retaliate when he went on nationwide TV.

TASS and U.S. Statements Compared

Today's Financial Times reported from London and Paris that "the Soviet Union last night accused Washington of fanning hysteria over the shooting down of a South Korean passenger jet...in order to facilitate the deployment of new missiles in Western Europe.

"This bitter attack on the U.S. carried by TASS...was closely followed by an evening news report on Soviet television that came the closest yet to admitting Soviet forces had shot down the aircraft.

"The Soviet accusation contrasts with U.S. statements that the United States had no intention of breaking off the Geneva arms control talks as their importance transcended the rise in international tension provoked by the aircraft incident.

"It also contradicts an earlier statement by the chief Soviet negotiator in Geneva...that the latest incident should have no bearing on the talks."

WEST GERMANY

"Incident Will Sharpen World Crisis"

Today's left-of-center Frankfurter Rundschau held that "now that the two world powers and their allies are confronting each other with almost no chance of reconciliation, the downing of the jumbo jet will even sharpen the crisis..."

"Europeans Can Hope Not Too Much Will Be Asked of Them"

Munich's center-left Sueddeutsche Zeitung remarked today that "since the Americans have so far virtually abstained from seeking consultation with the allies, and since Reagan himself has referred to moderate reaction, the Europeans can hope that not too much will be asked of them..."

WEST BERLIN

"Reagan Must Resist Calls Drastic Retaliatory Measures"

Pro-Social Democratic Volksblatt Berlin said today, "Time has run out for the USSR to give a credible explanation....Yet one must not give in to impulsive emotions demanding action....President Reagan resisted the temptation of giving this incident the dimension of the Gulf of Tonkin..."

"President Reagan must now pass a test consisting in calls by the large majority in America for drastic retaliatory measures that would lead to a direct military confrontation and of adequate sanctions that, as opposed to the Olympic boycott in Moscow would have a good chance of being implemented."

Conservative Berliner Morgenpost said today, "It is interesting that Moscow offers something like an official statement, even if the statement is unbelievable..."

"The fact that it throws a bad light on its own air defense indicates how much the Kremlin feels disturbed..."

In another item the paper observed that the Soviets "can only be pleased" over the delay of Foreign Minister Gromyko's visit to Paris since its purpose, "to break France out of the Western 'missile front,'" would not be served under the present circumstances.

"Loss of Confidence in International Relations Will Reach Dangerous Peak"

Independent Tagesspiegel today ran the report of Washington correspondent Emil Boelke that "Even if the USSR is unable to give firm assurance that such an incident will never happen again, the loss of confidence in international relations will reach a dangerous dimension."

"The United States and the USSR are involved in very complex security negotiations concerning the entire area of...nuclear armament. It lies in the nature of the matter that such negotiations cannot be conducted and agreements cannot be reached without confidence on both sides..."

1696T p. 6 pres. speech swiss proofed by ff,ltc, HMB

SWITZERLAND

"U.S. Trying to Orchestrate International Reaction"

Prestigious Neue Zuercher Zeitung carried the report of Washington correspondent Hans Rudolph Kramer that "the U.S. Administration is trying to orchestrate international reaction without seeming to be the initiator..."

CANADA

"Compensation Is Absolute Moral Duty"

Major circulation Toronto Star bannered today "Canada Bans Aeroflot Flights as U.S. Demands Soviet Apology" and subheaded "No Legal or Moral Justification for What Soviets Did: Reagan" above a Washington correspondent's story. He wrote:

"President Reagan has demanded reparations for the families of victims of the 'Korean airline massacre' in which 269 unarmed men, women and children were shot down Thursday by a Soviet fighter. Such compensation is an absolute moral duty which the Soviets must assume, the President said..."

"Canada Is Tired of Waiting for Soviets to Explain"

In a twin story, subheaded "We Want Explanations, We Want Compensation: MacEachen Says," the paper reported that "Canada has cut off the Soviet Union's only direct air transport link with North America.

"External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen told a news conference yesterday that beginning today, twice-weekly flights by Soviet airline Aeroflot to Montreal's Mirabel Airport will be suspended for 60 days.

"He said Canada is tired of waiting for the Soviet Government to explain its shooting down of a South Korean airliner carrying 269 people, including ten Canadians....'I hope this suspension will prompt a review by Soviet authorities of the merits of continuing to evade their responsibility for the deaths of Canadians and of so many other innocent passengers.

"'We want explanations, we want justification, we want compensation for the victims,' MacEachen declared."

A similar account was carried by Ottawa's English-language Citizen.

SWEDEN

"President Reagan Deeply Disappointed American Hawks"

In Stockholm, today's liberal tabloid Expressen ran the headline "Reagan's Cautiousness Surprises Entire United States" over a story that "President Reagan last night deeply disappointed all American hawks...and equally relieved the peace movement..."

Social Democratic Aftonbladet said of the President's remarks, "No surprises. This was the most common reaction to Reagan's speech last night. The United States apparently has decided to keep a low profile and, as one could expect, avoid considerably worsening relations with the Soviet Union."

SPAIN

President Reagan's television address was headlined in all leading papers in Madrid today.

EASTERN EUROPE

SOVIET UNION

"Aggressive, Hateful Speech"

Moscow English-language radio reported today that "President Reagan has urged Congress to approve his giant military programs, using the incident with the incursion of the plane in the airspace of the Soviet Union as a pretext.

"In an aggressive, hateful speech President Reagan stressed the need to further rearm America. He admitted that legislators had serious objections against the unbridled arms race.

EASTERN EUROPE

SOVIET UNION

"Aggressive, Hateful Speech"

Moscow English-language radio reported today that "President Reagan has urged Congress to approve his giant military programs, using the incident with the incursion of the plane in the airspace of the Soviet Union as a pretext.

"In an aggressive, hateful speech President Reagan stressed the need to further rearm America. He admitted that legislators had serious objections against the unbridled arms race.

"The U.S. President made bitter, slanderous attacks against the Soviet Union in a bid to arouse an outburst of anti-Soviet sentiment in the American nation. 'We must maintain peace through force,' he said in conclusion. President Reagan reported that the American side was breaking off negotiations with the Soviet Union on a number of issues of mutual interest and urged U.S. allies to introduce trade sanctions against the Soviet Union."

"CIA Responsible for Plane 'Provocation,' Passenger Deaths"

Moscow Krasnaya Zvezda, commented in its first edition today: "Irrefutable facts prove that the intrusion of an American-made South Korean aircraft into the USSR's air space in the Far East was in no way fortuitous.

"It was an operation that was planned in advance and prepared in detail... judging by the handwriting, by the American CIA.

"When (such a dangerous provocation) has been carried out, a hypocritical attempt is made to blame somebody else for what has been done and use the Soviet Union's legitimate actions in defense of the inviolability of its borders and its air space as a pretext for unleashing an anti-Soviet slander campaign on an unprecedented scale...a campaign in which its initiators would like to enlist not only the U.S. allies in military-political blocs, but virtually the entire world community.

"If you familiarize yourself with statements by American officials, the content of radio and television broadcasts and newspaper reports, you get the impression not that the USSR's air space has been violated but that a Soviet aircraft has intruded into the skies over California or Texas. But the Kamchatka Peninsula and Sakhalin Island are Soviet territory."

"President Reagan Makes Filthy Insinuations Against USSR"

Today's Pravda, in an article stating that the shooting down of the Korean airline was "prepared in advance" by the United States and South Korea and "expected," claimed that President Reagan in his speeches has "repeatedly" made "filthy insinuations against the Soviet Union."

The article headed "What Lies Behind the 'Incident'" said, "The frantic anti-Soviet hysteria around the disappearance of the South Korean aircraft...is taking on increasingly unbridled and coarse forms."

"The coordinated and deliberate character of both the provocative flight itself and the broad anti-Soviet campaign subsequently unleashed by the U.S. Administration is worthy of attention."

"It is evident that the 'incident' was prepared in advance and that--judging by what followed--was expected. It is also indicative that the first report about the disappearance of the aircraft came from the CIA..."

Referring to President Reagan's speeches, the article asked, "Do not the statements of the American President himself indicate the true purpose and the real meaning of the provocation that has been undertaken?"

"In any event the facts bear convincing witness to the fact that the South Korean airplane's coarse violation of the Soviet state border and deep intrusion into the Soviet Union's airspace were a deliberate action, which was planned in advance and pursued far-reaching political and military aims...."

"The American President is now expressing his 'indignation' at what has taken place and is speaking about the 'cruelty of the action that has been committed.' But surely it was not the Soviet side that planned and implemented this flight?"

"Surely it is the United States and Japan that, in accordance with international norms, bear the responsibility for observing the flight rules and insuring the flight's safety on an international route that lies within the zone they control?"

"We Sweep Aside Accusations From the Other Side of the Ocean"

Moscow TASS international service in Russian today cited Pravda observer Vitaliy Korionov as saying, "We sweep aside the accusations and instructions from the other side of the ocean. We will not allow our borders to be violated and we know how to defend them. Let no one be in any doubt on this matter."

POLAND

"Groundless Accusations Against USSR"

Warsaw radio in Polish today said, "In connection with the disappearance of the South Korean Airlines civilian plane, U.S. President Ronald Reagan has made more groundless accusations against the Soviet Union.

"He has also announced that the United States is suspending talks with the Soviet Union on the further development of bilateral relations. The suspension of the talks (includes) agreements on cultural cooperation...and civil aviation, and talks on the opening of an American Consulate in Kiev and a Soviet Consulate in New York."

YUGOSLAVIA

Yugoslav News Agency Says Speech Showed "Moderation"

The Yugoslav news service Tanjug said today, "Using sharp words but exhibiting perceptible moderation in his proposal for concrete measures, U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Monday evening demanded an apology from the Soviet Union for the tragedy of the South Korean passenger plane and compensation for the families of the 269 victims.

"In a television appearance the U.S. President reiterated the charge that the South Korean Boeing 747 was shot down by Soviet fighters and that no mistake was involved. Reagan dismissed the possibility of the jumbo jet having been mistaken by the Soviet pilots for a U.S. RC-135 spy plane that was flying in the vicinity of the ill-fated airliner at the time.

"Reagan described the shooting down of the passenger aircraft as an act of barbarism which the world will never forget (and) added that the United States wants not vengeance but only the whole truth and assurances that nothing similar will happen again...

"In his charges against the Soviet Union, the U.S. President went so far as to put forward the thesis that such acts of barbarism are a product of Soviet society which, he asserted, seeks to put other nations under its domination and shows no respect for human rights."

"Spy Plane...Under Cloak of CIA"

Belgrade's daily Borba carried an editorial today under the headline "Questions Without Answers." It held that "the reply of Moscow is perhaps incomplete, but rather clear....The Soviet reaction reflects anger due to the U.S. claims and speaks of the 'spy plane carrying 269 people under the cloak of the CIA.'

"The question why the Soviets shot down the plane still remains unansweredAnd there is still another less certain question--did they really fire in the first place?... (There is) yet another question. Would Washington be that angry had there been no U.S. citizens on that plane?"

Radio Talk Show Included Soviet Pilot Tapes

The popular Belgrade radio talk show "Studio B" today included a segment of the Soviet fighter tape recordings as released by the White House "so that listeners will know what Americans have been hearing" about the KAL downing.

"Tragic Mistake...But Unexplained Facts"

Today's Vecernji List of Zagreb carried an article headed, "Fatal Airplane Mistake?" It called the incident an "obvious, tragic mistake...still, there are a lot of unexplained facts."

The paper commented that "it would be naive to think that the downing of the South Korean airliner could have been done without the knowledge of higher circles. The Air Defense Command had surely informed higher authorities and the decision to shoot the plane down was not theirs."

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

"President Reagan Surely Had Been Informed"

A commentator in Rude Pravo yesterday stated that President Reagan...had surely been informed in detail by the American intelligence service about the course of the whole event (but) did not stop short of statements that call into question the Soviet Union's trustworthiness."

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

JAPAN

Nakasone on Reagan Proposal

The Kyodo News Service reported this morning that Prime Minister Nakasone said, "Japan will make efforts in concert with the United States and other countries to establish facts about the incident at the U.N. and other opportunities."

It added that "when questioned about President Reagan's move to call on other countries to ban traffic of Soviet Aeroflot planes, Nakasone said Japan will take necessary steps in view of future Soviet moves concerning the incident."

"Posts and Telecommunications Minister Tokutaro Higaki, who is Acting Transport Minister, also took a cautious attitude in responding to the U.S. move due to its serious effects."

Soviets Brand Japanese Tapes "Fabrication"

The news agency carried a second report this morning stating that "the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo today branded as a 'fabrication' Japanese-monitored radio communications from a Soviet fighter that allegedly shot down (the KAL plane)."

Extensive Coverage of the Reagan Speech

In Tokyo today Publicly financed NHK television ran the speech live via satellite with simultaneous interpretation in Japanese.

All networks carried the tape recordings used by the President which, they said, made clear that a Soviet pilot reported the destruction of the KAL plane after launching a missile.

The President's Appeal to the World

Fuji television said that the President wanted to emphasize to Americans and to the world that the murderous attack indicated the nature of Soviet society. The network cited him as pointing out the need for Western nations to build up their military to cope with the Soviet Union.

Reagan's "Comparatively Moderate" Anti-Soviet Measures

Today's moderate Yomiuri reported that Mr. Reagan demanded an apology and compensation from the Soviet Union and announced independent and joint retaliatory measures with other countries.

In the paper's opinion, he made a "severe" verbal criticism of the USSR but the anti-Soviet measures taken were "comparatively moderate."

"Moderate" Washington Reaction to Speech

Liberal Asahi's Washington correspondent Sato today described Washington reaction to the President's speech as "rather moderate" compared to that following events in Afghanistan and Poland.

A Difference In Interpreting Soviet Pilot's Communication?

Moderate Tokyo Shimbun today front-paged a report saying there appears to be an important difference in interpretation between the United States and Japan concerning the contents of the Soviet pilot's communication with ground control.

SOUTH KOREA

Major Electronic and Press Coverage of President's Speech

National television gave live coverage to the speech with a simultaneous translation of it. Leading papers front-paged full text or excerpts of the speech as well as Washington correspondents' reports on the President's emphases.

ROK Government "Welcomes, Supports" Reagan Statement

Seoul domestic radio in Korean today quoted a spokesman for the ROK Government as saying "President Reagan made public the measures to be taken with each friendly country to counter the Soviet Union. Viewing his statement as being proper and just, the Government of South Korea welcomes and supports it.

"U.S. Retaliatory Measures Are Quite Limited"

Today's moderately conservative Donga Ilbo said of the President's speech that "one cannot but get the impression that the U.S. retaliatory measures are quite limited in scale probably because excessively strong retaliatory measures would exert a negative influence on U.S. national interests and are apt to heighten tensions between the United States and the USSR."

"President Reagan's Lukewarm First Step"

An editorial in today's Joongang Ilbo stated that "unfortunately, President Reagan's first step is lukewarm in contrast to our expectations....In a sense, the U.S. measures seem to focus on the improvement of the management of the incident and are not retaliatory measures."

An editorial in today's pro-Government Kyunghyang Shinmun was headed "Lukewarm U.S. Retaliatory Measures: We Expect a Second Step." In the paper's view, the measures "are not strong ones, corresponding to the world's feeling of indignation.

"We cannot but feel that President Reagan's measures did not come up to American public opinion ... and could be termed milder than those adopted by the United States during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

SINGAPORE

"Even Clumsy Bears Can be Coerced to Behave More Responsibly"

Today's independent Straits Times wrote: "It is clear that Moscow is more than prepared to ride out the storm of international affront, willy-nilly. For those who have been living under fairy-tale images of gentle and smiling Soviet Government officials receiving young American girls offering flowers and letters of peace, this latest tragedy must be a rude awakening.

"By all means short of shooting down every Aeroflot airliner in sight and declaring war on the Soviet Union, the world must not let the Russians get away scot-free. Even clumsy bears can be coerced to behave more responsibly."

CHINA

Report of Reagan Speech on KAL Incident

The New China News Agency today carried a Washington-dated report saying that President Reagan last night "announced a series of restrictions on the Soviet Union in response to the downing of the South Korean commercial plane by a Soviet missile...

"Reagan said that the United States is 'cooperating with other countries to find better means to ensure the safety of civil aviation and to join us in not accepting Aeroflot as a normal member of the international civil air community unless and until, the Soviets satisfy the cries of humanity for justice.'"

AUSTRALIA

"Reagan's Outrage Stemmed From Humanitarian Concern"

Television and radio carried the President's speech live. Some outlets ran an interview afterwards with foreign affairs analyst and former Australian Ambassador to the United States Alan Renouf who reportedly said that the President's speech had recognized that economic sanctions had not worked in the past and "clearly his outrage (was motivated by) humanitarian concern."

"Speech Was Short on Actual Retaliation Against USSR"

Australian Broadcasting Corporation Washington correspondent Richard Palfreyman concluded that Mr. Reagan's speech "was short on actual retaliation against the Soviet Union.

"In President Reagan's own words, the American response has been calm and measured. This staunchly anti-Communist President has resisted pressure from the far right of American politics to seek major punitive action against the Soviet Union, such as economic or political sanctions.

"Instead President Reagan has tried to unite world reaction in what is really a symbolic gesture of anger and disgust.

"A Stern-Faced Ron Reagan"

Sydney television ran Los Angeles correspondent Barry Matheson's assertion that "it was a stern-faced Ron Reagan who tonight spent most of his twenty-minute nationally televised address assailing the Soviet Union for shooting down the Korean passenger plane.

"Reagan Reveals Tapes of Death"

Today's Melbourne Herald front-paged a report of the Reagan speech by Washington correspondent Bruce Wilson under the headline "Reagan Unveils Tapes of Death--Punish Guilty for Horror."

The paper also ran the text of the Soviet pilot's conversation with ground control under the heading "Target Hit: Attack Pilot."

LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL

"Reagan Announces Mild Sanctions"

In Sao Paulo today, both major papers carried the text of the President's speech and news stories. Headlines read "Reagan: USSR Must Apologize" (O Estado de Sao Paulo) and "Reagan Announces Soft Sanctions... 'The Crime Must Not Be Forgotten'" (Folha de Sao Paulo).

MEXICO

"Reagan Accuses Moscow of 'Massacre'"

Papers in Mexico City carried excerpts from the text of the President's speech today.

Headlines read "Reagan Accuses Moscow of 'Massacre' and Suspends Agreements" (Unomasuno), "Reagan Announces Sanctions Against Moscow ...Suspends Cultural Exchanges...Soviet Union Should Compensate Families of Murdered Victims" (El Herald) and "Reagan Demands Moscow Offer Apologies" (Novedades).

Marxist El Dia headlined "Reagan Suspends Exchange Agreements With Soviet Union" and carried a statement released by the Soviet Ambassador that the incident was "one out of so many engineered by the CIA."

"President Reagan Condemns Massacre in Violent Terms"

San Jose's leading daily La Nacion today led with a wire service article on the President's speech headlined: "Reagan Announces Suspension of Agreements with USSR" and "President Reagan Condemns Massacre in Violent Terms."

The paper's lead editorial today called for the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly to pass a motion proposed by the leaders of parliamentary parties condemning the Soviet Union for its "atrocious attack and destruction of a civilian airliner flying casually in Soviet skies."

The editorial sharply criticized the Communist deputy for refusing to sign the motion. It stated, "The crime is, as we have said, subhuman--a fact that in Western humanity has no explanation."

Independent La Republica today bannered the President's speech last night: "U.S. Takes Action Against the Russians."

"Reagan Made Virulent, Anti-Soviet Speech"

Havana domestic service in Spanish today commented that "Ronald Reagan last night in a televised speech of virulent, anti-Soviet tone, announced a series of measures against the USSR, the pretext for which was the incident of a South Korean airplane which violated Soviet air space during an open mission of espionage."

"Reagan also took advantage of his appearance last night to exhort the Congress to approve the enormous military expenditure demand by his Administration."

MIDDLE EAST

JORDAN

Radio Jordan on "Sanctions Proposed by Reagan Against USSR"

In Amman, Radio Jordan was the only media outlet to report on the President's speech "proposing sanctions against the Soviet Union for downing the Korean plane."

Papers ran reports of world reaction, reporting Soviet assertions that the Korean jet resembled a U.S. spy aircraft. Jordan national TV and the independent Jordan Times highlighted a reported U.S. "disclosure of the presence of a spy plane shortly before the passenger aircraft strayed into the Soviet air space."

South Korean Ambassador Interviewed

The paper front-paged an interview with the South Korean ambassador in Amman "condemning the Soviets." Calling the downing of the plane "inhuman and barbaric," the Korean ambassador noted that "this is the worst incident in the history of aviation" and was "a clear violation of international law."

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

"RC-135 Used for Spying Exact Replica of the Korean Boeing"

President Reagan's speech came too late for papers in the United Arab Emirates.

On other aspects of the downing of the South Korean plane, semi-official al-Ittihad of Abu Dhabi today headlined "New Events in Incident of Korean Aircraft: Washington Admits Presence of American Spy Plane Behind Korean Passenger Airliner" and "American Official: We Do Not Possess Firm Evidence That Soviets Were Aware of Nature of Aircraft."

Widely circulated, anti-U.S. al-Khaleej, showing a photograph "from the archives" of a U.S. Air Force Boeing RC-135 "used for spying," said it was an "exact replica of the Korean Boeing." The paper headlined the photograph and story "Interesting Development: Washington Admits Presence of American Spy Plane Near Ill-Fated Airliner; Moscow Points to Similarity Between American and Korean Airplanes."